

We claim:

1. A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to said data medium and are conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which comprise at least first apparatus protection data and second apparatus protection data,

wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus, is to be used, and can not be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and wherein said second apparatus protection data can be modified by the user to selectively define a plurality of protection levels including at least two levels which are respectively specific to adults and to children;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level,

wherein, in response to a combination of said medium protection data with said first apparatus protection data, said reproduction apparatus reproduces said main data either in their entirety or not at all, and in response to a combination of said medium protection data and said second apparatus protection data, said reproduction apparatus reproduces said main data in their entirety, partially, or not at all,

wherein, for each combination of protection levels based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data, there is a corresponding range of one or more possible

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values of final protection level, said corresponding range extending from a least severe value to a most severe value.

2. A reproduction apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said means for executing reproduction of said main data further comprises means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with a value of final protection level between the least severe value and the most severe value in accordance with said combination of protection levels.

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